

REMARKS

In the Office Action of February 10, 2004, claims 1-23 were presented for examination. Claims 1-23 were restricted as follows: group I (claims 1-13); and group II (claims 14-23). In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect with traverse group I, which corresponds to claims 1-13.

In the present preliminary amendment, applicants have amended independent claims 1, 4, 11 to more clearly claim the invention. Applicants have also cancelled claim 13. Support for the amendments can be found on at least pages 20-24 of the application as originally filed as well as figures 12A-12C, 13, thus no new matter has been added by the amendments.

Applicants note that independent claim 19 is directed to a method that does not require that a cylindrical filter be utilized. In addition, independent claim 1 is directed to an apparatus that does not require a cylindrical filter be utilized. Thus, applicants submit that the invention recited in claims 19 –23 fall within the scope of Group I and the restriction with regard to the same is improper.

If, however, the restriction requirement is maintained, applicants request and authorize the canceling of claims 14-23 corresponding to group II.



If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with applicants attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, he is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

If there are any charges due with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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